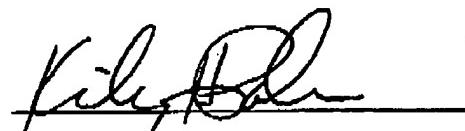


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REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated September 17, 2004, the Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the claims identified by the Examiner as Group I, namely Claims 1-18. The Applicants file this response without prejudice or disclaimer to filing a divisional patent application and reserve the right to timely file one or more divisional patent applications to claim the subject matter of Claims 19-47.

Respectfully submitted,



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